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AUTH CS, USAF

10 March 1953

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D/I, USAF SUGGESTED ADDITION TO 84-39: PROBABLE
CONSEQUENCES OF THE DEATH OF STALIN AND OF THE
ELEVATION OF MALENKOV TO LEADERSHIP IN THE USSR

The D/I, USAF suggests the following footnote to the first sentence of Paragraph 1, Page 1, for consideration of the IAC members:

Although this is our considered judgment, a second view merits consideration, i.e., that the Soviets may have developed a unique skill for transferring power in a totalitarian state. The speed and precision with which at least nominal power has been transferred to Malenkov suggests this possibility and also the possibility that no power struggle will develop among Soviet leaders as a result of Stalin's death.

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determined that
☒ CIA has no objection to declass
☐ It contains information of CIA
interest that must remain

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Page 4, Para 8:

"8. For some time, no successor to Stalin will be able to achieve comparable status or similar significance as a symbol of the international Communist movement and as the undisputed leader of world Communism. ~~Therefore~~ However, the cohesion of the Communist movement outside the Bloc may is not likely to be impaired, at least temporarily. If, on the other hand there should be a struggle for power should develop within the Soviet Communist Party, the cohesion of the Communist movement outside the Bloc would almost certainly be weakened."

How
many
times
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Page 6, Para 13:

"13. We believe that in general the Western Europe leaders will be disposed for the time being to conduct the East-West struggle with greater hesitancy and caution. They will probably fear that any immediate new Western pressure on the Bloc would increase the danger of war and facilitate the stabilization of authority in the USSR. They will also probably hope that, if new Western pressure is not exerted, the problems involved in the consolidation of the authority of the new regime of the USSR will bring about at least a temporary relaxation of tensions and enable them to postpone disagreeable policy decisions."

OK

OK

W. H. Garrison